

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A coin dispensing apparatus for an automatic vending machine, comprising:

an inserting aperture, provided at an upper part of a main body, for receiving coins to be inserted thereinto;

a first sorting unit comprising a coin discriminating device for discriminating genuineness of coins inserted into said inserting aperture, said sorting unit sorting said coins discriminated in said coin discriminating device;

a holding unit for temporally holding said coins sorted in said first sorting unit after the coins are inserted until goods are dispensed from the automatic vending machine or a user requests return of the coins;

a coin storing unit provided under said holding unit for supplying coins to the coin repayment unit; and

a coin repayment unit, provided at a lower part of said main body, for giving change to a customer when goods are sold;

wherein said coin dispensing apparatus has

a holding cylinder provided in said holding unit for temporally holding said coins sorted in said first sorting unit, said holding cylinder holding said coins for each coin kind,

a wiper provided at a lower part of said holding cylinder for sweeping said coins temporally held in said holding cylinder,

a ~~second sorting unit~~ diverting unit provided under said wiper for diverting sorting said coins swept by said wiper to said coin storing unit or said coin repayment unit, and when coin-returning operation is performed after coins are inserted into said coin dispensing apparatus, the inserted coins being temporally held in said holding cylinder are returned along a path separate from said coin storing unit.

3. (Currently Amended) A coin dispensing apparatus for an automatic vending machine, as defined in claim 2, wherein:

said coin dispensing apparatus has a coin storing passage connected with said coin storing unit and a repayment passage connected with said coin repayment unit, and a damper provided in said ~~second sorting unit~~ diverter for switching said coin storing passage and said repayment passage.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A coin dispensing apparatus for an automatic vending machine, comprising:

an inserting aperture, provided at an upper part of a main body, for receiving coins to be inserted thereinto;

a sorting unit comprising a coin discriminating device for discriminating genuineness of coins inserted into said inserting aperture, said sorting unit sorting said coins discriminated in said coin discriminating device;

a holding unit for temporally holding said coins sorted in said sorting unit after the coins are inserted until goods are dispensed from the automatic vending machine or a user requests return of the coins;

a coin storing unit provided under said holding unit for supplying coins to the coin repayment unit; and

a coin repayment unit, provided at a lower part of said main body, for giving change to a customer when goods are sold;

wherein said coin dispensing apparatus has

a holding cylinder provided in said holding unit for temporally holding said coins sorted in said sorting unit, said holding cylinder holding said coins for each coin kind,

a wiper provided at a lower part of said holding cylinder for sweeping said coins temporally held in said holding cylinder,

a receiving member provided near said wiper for sorting said coins swept by said wiper to said coin storing unit or said coin repayment unit by operation with or without being linked to said wiper, and

when coin-returning operation is performed after coins are inserted into said coin dispensing apparatus, the inserted coins being temporally held in said holding cylinder are returned along a path separate from said coin storing unit.

6. (Currently Amended) A coin dispensing apparatus for an automatic vending machine, as defined in claim 5, wherein:

operation of said receipt member is linked with said wiper in storing coins in said coin storing unit, and is not linked with said wiper in sweeping coins to said coin repayment unit.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A coin dispensing apparatus for an automatic vending machine, as defined in claim 2, wherein

during a selling operation, the coins in said holding unit are transferred to said coin storing unit, and

during a returning operation, a passage from said holding unit to said coin storing unit is blocked and the coins in said holding unit are transferred to said coin repayment unit via a repayment passage between said holding unit and said coin repayment unit.

10. (Currently Amended) A coin dispensing apparatus for an automatic vending machine, as defined in claim 5, wherein

during a selling operation, the coins in said holding unit are transferred to said coin storing unit, and

during a returning operation, a passage from said holding unit to said coin storing unit is blocked and the coins in said holding unit are transferred to said coin repayment unit via a repayment passage between said holding unit and said coin repayment unit.